



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

### FALL GUIDE 2010



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## Wild Discoveries

When September arrived this year, it carried a proud new title: National Wilderness Month. That's cause for celebration here, as over 93% of Sequoia and Kings Canyon are legally designated Wilderness. (And that only counts the surface acreage; miles of wild caves lie hidden in these mountains, too.)

This park is part of one of the most expansive stretches of protected wilderness in the country. Neighboring wilderness areas share boundaries with the park, creating a band of protected wild areas along the peaks and canyons of the Sierra Nevada.

Several recent discoveries remind us that, as we protect these lands, we are helping to protect the life that they sustain. The Sierran wilderness holds living treasures we thought were lost, and some that are just now being revealed:

In September, in the mountains north of these parks, an automated camera captured a rare Sierra Nevada red fox on film. These animals haven't been seen in that area for decades. Its genetics match samples from fox pelts taken before 1926 from the same area where it was photographed. Scientists believe, therefore, that it may be part of a small group that has survived locally yet remained out of sight.

A similar story can be told about the few-flowered woolly star. First identified in 1899 on the floor of Kings Canyon, it was last seen there in 1940, despite numerous searches. This summer, a



*A recent rediscovery in the Sierra Nevada wilderness: the rare Sierra Nevada red fox. ©U.S. Forest Service.*

botanist rediscovered two small groups of this lovely little plant.

Some life is coming to light for the very first time. Researchers have captured strange, dark-adapted insects and spiders in the wild caves of these parks. Recent analysis shows that thirty-seven species and four genera of these creatures are completely new to science.

It's particularly exciting that these life forms are living and reproducing in the wilds of the Sierra, not just passing through. Their definition for wilderness is *home*.

The rest of us *are* just passing through. The Wilderness Act of 1964 describes wilderness as a natural place "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It says that, in most cases, it takes an area of at least 5000 acres to make a wilderness. For legal title as Wilderness, lands must also provide "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined

type of recreation." They may contain "ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic or historical value."

The 807,962 acres of wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon meet this legal definition spectacularly. Whether you go by foot or by book, discover the meaning of this wilderness for yourself.

*Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges -  
Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!*

~Rudyard Kipling



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON



## PHONE NUMBERS

**EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed.

**24-Hour Park Information**  
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

**National Forest Information**  
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**Yosemite Information (NPS)**  
1-209-372-0200  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

**California Road Conditions**  
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

## Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the Sequoia Bark. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

### National Park Service (NPS)

Malinee Crapsey, Editor  
1-559-565-3341  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

### Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3759  
[www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)

### Sequoia Parks Foundation

1-559-739-1668  
[www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org](http://www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org)

### U.S. Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)

1-888-252-5757  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)

### Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com)

### U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171  
[www.werc.usgs.gov](http://www.werc.usgs.gov)

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

## Welcome!

You expect giant trees and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of its famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold High Sierra. It means diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering these two national parks is a national monument, which is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are an important partner, too! Experience these parks, learn all you can, and join in preserving them.

*The National Park Service cares  
for special places saved by the  
American people so that all may  
experience our heritage.*

## FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in projects that improve visitor facilities and protect park resources. Fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have also improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

## ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

## WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

## BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

## BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

## WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhältlich.

## BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

## PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they maximize protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



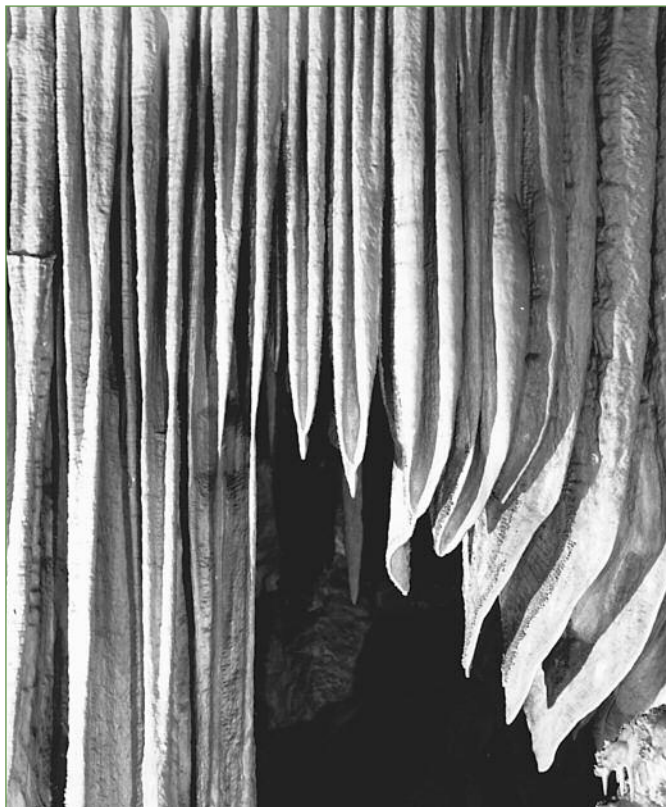


# Crystal Cave tours rock!

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1½ hours before the tour. Tours may sell out. See information on traffic delays & length-limit restrictions on page 12.

Crystal Cave Road starts 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree. Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on this road. See page 12 map for details.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask SNHA about group reservations and Wild Cave Tours: 1-559-565-3759.



Learn how these curtains of stone formed!

## • 45-minute Cave Tours daily through 10/24

On the hour, Saturdays 11am- 3pm & Sundays 11am- 2pm. Weekdays 11am, 1pm, 2pm. Closed starting 10/25. Tours through 10/24, weather permitting.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$6.50; age 13-61 \$13; under 5 free; age 62 & up and Golden Access passholders \$12. National Park, Interagency, and Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a discount!

## • 1½-hour Historic Candle-Light Cave Tours through 9/25

Thursday-Friday at 5:30 pm; Saturday-Sunday 6pm. Limited to 15 people, ages 12 and up. Experience Crystal Cave in a different light. Explore using candle lanterns and see Crystal Cave as its discoverers did! Fee: \$20 each (SNHA members \$18).

# Activities

**FREE WALKS & TALKS:** Ranger-led talks and walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, or the Foothills. Watch for snowshoe walks once the snow flies. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for details and schedules.

## VISITOR CENTERS & STORES:

Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8-9 for details.

## JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

**FREE** for all ages. If you are 5 to 105 years old, you can be a Sequoia & Kings Canyon Junior Ranger! Get a free booklet at any visitor center to learn how to earn your badge. Complete the activities for your age group while you have fun learning about and protecting the parks.

**TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!** Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date: 1-559-565-4303.

# WHERE CAN I...

**Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 for details). Know which one you are in (see page 12)!**

## • WALK A PET - In the Parks:

Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). **In the National Forest:** Pets can go on trails. **In both areas:** Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Never leave pets in cars when it's warm as they overheat quickly.

## • COLLECT THINGS TO TAKE HOME - Not in Parks:

Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. **In the National Forest:** Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. **In both areas:** Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.

## • HUNT - Not in the Parks.

Visitors are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park. **In the National Forest:** Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.

## • GO CAMPING - In the Parks:

Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. **In the National Forest:** In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

## • DRIVE OFF-ROAD - Not in the parks.

Stay on roads. **In the National Forest:** Off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes available. Get specific information at USFS Hume Lake office (in Dunlap on Hwy 180) or Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).

## • CUT WOOD - Not in the Parks.

**In the National Forest:** Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit and guidelines: 559-338-2251.

• **GO PICNICKING** - See picnic symbols on back-page map. Due to bears, never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms and fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills and Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, and Crescent Meadow.

• **HAVE A FIRE - Restrictions change; always check first. At time of publication, it was the following:** **In the Parks** Below 6000 feet: No wood or barbecue fires, including in picnic areas and wilderness areas; ok in designated campgrounds only. Gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. No smoking except in developed areas, campgrounds, or enclosed vehicles. Above 6000 feet: Only in fire grills in campgrounds and some picnic areas, and in wilderness. **In the National Forest:** Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.

• **GO FISHING - In both areas:** Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

• **RIDE BICYCLES - In the Parks:** Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). **In the National Forest:** Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. **In both areas:** Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

## • RIDE HORSEBACK

Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, or guided trips. Fall closings depend on weather; call.

### • Cedar Grove

1-559-565-3464 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season

### • Grant Grove

1-559-335-9292 summer  
1-559-799-7247 off season

### • Horse Corral

at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell



# Change: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

## Fire: A natural change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires create a fertile ash seedbed and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it's appropriate, we may ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators, and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants and limit wildlife movements. It is not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



## WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and between late May and late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. The quota and fee are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

A permit is required for each overnight trip. Reserved and first-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Reserved permits must be picked up either the afternoon before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation.

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway #60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm) or call.

## HIGH SIERRA LODGE

• **BEARPAW HIGH SIERRA CAMP** (DNCR) [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)  
Reservations required:  
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June, weather permitting, to mid-September. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.



## YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

# Be Safe!

**DROWNING:** The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear.

**PLAGUE:** Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**POISON OAK:** This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation: Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



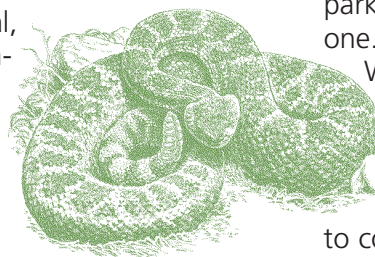
**TICKS:** Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



**GIARDIA** in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

**HYPOTHERMIA:** This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

**RATTLESNAKES**, found in much of these parks, are especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



**LIGHTNING:** See dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

**CARBON MONOXIDE:** This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, or RV.

**OZONE POLLUTION:** See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

**CELL PHONES** rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

**COUGARS** roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass.

If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; it may trigger pursuit.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- Pick up children.
- If the mountain lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

**BE SAFE:** Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Watch and listen for potential hazards above you, around you, and on the ground. Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with ice or leaves. Slow down to safely share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

**SAFE DRINKING WATER:** The 13 park water systems are tested to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

### OPERATION NO-GROW

Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

## Mountain Roads

**EXPECT TRAFFIC DELAYS** in several areas. See page 12 for details. Use low gears in construction zones.

### ICY ROADS & TRAILS

Cold fall temperatures can mean slippery areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. If it snows, watch out for plows. Recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341 (press 9, then 4).

**22' VEHICLE LENGTH LIMIT** on Generals Hwy between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum due to single-lane road. Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicle + towed unit.

### EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA available 24 hours for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: call 565-4070.

### DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, *always* downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

### LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Hospital Rock Picnic Area in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Alternative: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. Towing a car? Stay in the foothills; use the car to explore.

### PETS IN CARS

Pets locked in cars may get dangerously overheated.

### BICYCLES

Ride on roads (not trails), single file, and with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

### FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations within the park. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-335-2000. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: Closes 10/10. 1-559-565-3909. Gas available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Closes 11/29 at the latest; call for information. Gas usually sold 9am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

### GO SLOW FOR WILDLIFE!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit them if they wait for handouts on roadsides.

### MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup on pavement.

### NARROW, WINDING ROADS & WINTER CLOSURES

**IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/SEQUOIA MONUMENT - Hwy 180 East into Cedar Grove** closes at noon on 11/15 at lower gate near Yucca Point trailhead. Upper gate just below Hume Lake junction closes 11/29 (depending on weather). **Panoramic Point & unpaved Redwood Mountain roads (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS, unpaved)** close with snow.

**IN SEQUOIA - Crystal Cave Road:** Closed as of 10/25 at the latest. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle - length limit 22'. No trailers/towed units. Closes by 11/14.

**Mineral King Road:** Closes 11/1 at noon. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).

**South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter.





Acorn Woodpecker. Photo © Brent Russell Paul

# Highlights

## SEQUOIA PARK

### GIANT FOREST



Review safety tips on page 5. Take warm clothes, a map, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

You are on your own in the woods—enjoy them safely.

#### GIANT FOREST MUSEUM

The best place to learn about sequoias before you explore.

#### ♿BIG TREES TRAIL

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip.

#### GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Sherman Tree Trail** - Has a large parking lot that closes by mid-November. It runs 1/2 mile down to the tree and has some stairs. It is an uphill walk back to your car. Drive two miles (3.2 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Highway for those with *disabled* placards only) to Wolverton Road. Turn right, then follow signs.
- ♿ • **Wheelchair accessible trail from Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree** has parking for those with *disabled* placards only. If you don't have a placard but can't make the walk down the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit.

When the upper lot closes for winter, anyone can park here.

**CONGRESS TRAIL:** A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

### MORO ROCK/ CRESCENT MEADOW

*No drinking water is available* along this 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. See page 5 for road details. This road closes with snowfall. Highlights:

**MORO ROCK:** A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy or snowy.

**TUNNEL LOG:** A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. There is a by-pass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Museum.

**CRESCENT MEADOW:** Towering sequoias around a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the lower 48 states).

**AUTO LOG:** Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

### NEARBY TRAILS

**TOKOPAH FALLS:** 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below impressive granite cliffs and a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground. For the 500 foot/152 m elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.



### MINERAL KING

Road is open late May through October 31 (weather permitting), the winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. From there, trails lead to the High Sierra and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Fall weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity is available. Starting November 1 at noon, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198). See page 8 for more information.

**LITTLE BALDY:** Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

### THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more different kinds of plants and animals than the conifer forests or highcountry. Watch for ticks and poison oak (see page 5 for safety tips).

#### HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC

**AREA:** Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here and a very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always use bear boxes to store food from bears. Only keep food and scented items out when they are in use and within arm's reach.

**MARBLE FALLS TRAIL:** This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Take the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

**PARADISE CREEK:** At Buckeye Flat Campground, follow the footpath across from site #26 and the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

### SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

**LADYBUG:** Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

**GARFIELD:** A relatively steep 5-mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.



# Highlights

## KINGS CANYON



Photo © Brent Russell Pauli

**BE CAREFUL.** Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the parks, so travel safely!

### GRANT GROVE

#### GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this ½-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

**NORTH GROVE LOOP:** This lightly traveled, 1½ mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

#### DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1½ mile (2.4 km) round-trip hike.

### NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

#### PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Drive or hike this steep, narrow road to a High Sierra vista until snow closes it; then it's a ski trail. Trailers/RVs not recommended. Go east through visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." Walk ¼ mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

**BUENA VISTA PEAK:** South of Kings Canyon Overlook on west side of Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. Trail to 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

**REDWOOD CANYON:** Rough dirt road to one of the world's largest sequoia groves; closes with snow. Acres of rejuvenating forest from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.3km

south of Grant Grove), to Redwood Saddle. Turn right (west) and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

**BIG BALDY RIDGE:** Great views out and down into Redwood Canyon. Two-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4 miles (6.4km).

**KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:** View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

**REDWOOD MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK:** Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, it looks west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

### THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

**NOTE:** The road to this area closes on 11/15 at noon. Also, the Kings River Bridge to Cedar Grove is being replaced; detours are available. Be very careful around rivers and creeks, even in the fall.

**CANYON VIEW:** The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**KNAPP'S CABIN:** During the Roaring '20s, a Santa Barbara businessman commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, storing gear in this small cabin. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**ROARING RIVER FALLS:** A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

**ZUMWALT MEADOW:** This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Trailhead parking is 4½ miles (7.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

**ROAD'S END:** High granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

### TAKE A HIKE!

**MIST FALLS:** One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

**DON CECIL TRAIL** is closed due to the Sheep Fire. Check bulletin boards for updates. The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up). Strenuous; allow all day.

**HOTEL CREEK TRAIL:** Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

### USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

**CONVERSE BASIN:** Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the ½-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

**INDIAN BASIN:** Closed this summer due to construction in Princess Campground. A one-mile accessible trail and one-mile unpaved trail. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

**HUME LAKE,** formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108 km) to Sanger. An easy 2 ½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

**BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT:** A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11 then Forest Road 13S04.



# FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

## Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' (1950m) elevation. This sequoia grove is the home of the world's biggest trees. It offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12. See highlights on page 6 and traffic-delay information on page 12.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-5pm through 10/24, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).

## Crystal Cave

A major park highlight! Open through 10/24. Page 3 has details.

## Lodgepole Village

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 & the map on page 12.

### INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 8am-4:30pm through 10/24, if weather permits, then closed. *Bears of the Sierra* movie; exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps; first aid. Crystal Cave tickets sold 8am-4pm through 10/24. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436. **Wilderness permits**, required for overnight trips, issued through 9/25, then self-register outside to the left of the front door of the visitor center. Details on page 4. 1-559-565-3766.

### FOOD & SHOPS - Last day of operation this year: 10/17

- **Market & Gift Shop (DNCPR):** Daily 9am-6pm through 9/26, then 10am-4:30pm through 10/17. Groceries, pre-made sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, ice cream, souvenirs.
- **Watchtower Deli (DNCPR):** Closed for the season.
- **Snack Bar (DNCPR):** Weekends only 9am-6pm. Closed starting 9/27.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Same hours as Market. Last load in 1 hour before closing. Closed starting 10/17.
- **Showers (DNCPR):** Daily 9am-5:30pm through 9/26, then 9am-4pm. Closed starting 10/17.

### OTHER SERVICES

- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. See details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (cell-phone signals are usually poor).

## Foothills Area

1300-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid. Local wilderness permits; self-issued outside visitor center starting 9/26. Crystal Cave tickets sold *only* here and at Lodgepole Visitor Center, through 10/24. 1-559-565-3135.
- **Camping (NPS):** At Potwisha. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

## Mineral King Area

Road to this area closes at noon on November 1.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, twisting road. No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed for the season starting 9/26, then self-issue wilderness permits outside. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-3768.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area, Silver City Resort. Cell phone signals are extremely poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Last night 10/17. Cabins, chalets, showers. Small store: gifts, limited supplies, ice (not always), **no gasoline**, no fishing licenses. Restaurant: Dessert and drinks only 8am-5pm. 1-559-561-3223; [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com). On private land.
- **Camping (NPS):** Through 10/31. No RVs or trailers. See page 11.

## Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' (2160 m) elevation. DNCPR: Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia 4 miles (6.4 km) north of Sherman Tree.

**Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR) and the National Park Foundation make it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!**

- **Dining Room:** Daily 7:30am-9:30pm, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge 5-8:30pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones:** At main lodge. Cell-phone signals are poor.

# FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

**Join us! Non-campers are welcome at any of the programs led by rangers in campgrounds. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for updated times, topics, and meeting locations.**

### IN THE FOOTHILLS

Park rangers may offer walks and talks on weekends. Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for details.

### IN GIANT FOREST & LODGEPOLE

- **Sherman Tree Talk:** Daily 10:30am until late October.
- **Realm of Giants Walk:** Daily 2pm until late October.
- **Moro Vistas Talk:** Daily 11am atop Moro Rock until late September.
- **Snowshoe walks** begin when there is enough snow. Stay tuned!





# FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

## Grant Grove Village Area

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here are both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

### INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm. Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued until 4:30pm through 9/25, then permits are self-issued. 1-559-565-4307.

### FOOD, LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Restaurant (KCPS):** Daily 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday).
- **Gift Shop & Market (KCPS):** Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, film, clothing, ATM. Food, supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.
- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk in restaurant building: 7am-10pm.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Daily 11am-4pm through 11/27 then closed.
- **Stables - Horseback Riding:** See page 3.
- **Pay Telephones:** Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door) & outside gift shop & market. Cell phone signals are poor.

## Cedar Grove Village in the Kings Canyon

**Road to this area closes at noon on November 15.**  
4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — “a rival to the Yosemite,” according to John Muir.

### INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily Fridays-Sundays through 9/26 then closed. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. 1-559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the village. Daily 7am-3pm (no permits issued after 2:45pm) through 9/26, then self-register permits. Maps, bear canisters.

### FOOD & LODGING - Daily through 10/16, then closed:

- **Restaurant (KCPS):** Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm.
- **Gift Shop & Market (KCPS):** Lunch supplies, salads, sandwiches, bear canisters, souvenirs. 8am-7pm.
- **Lodging:** Last night 10/16. See page 10. Front desk 8am-7pm.
- **Showers:** 8am-1pm & 3-6pm.

### OTHER SERVICES

- **Pay Telephones:** Outside lodge & ranger station.
- **Camping:** Through 11/14. See page 10-11.
- **Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3.

## Paying Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon in Grant Grove

Through mid-October, pay the required park and forest entrance fee or show your pass at Big Stump, just off Highway 180 inside the park boundary. Later the entrance station will move to in front of the visitor center. One fee covers *both* parks *and* the forest!

## USFS: National Forest & Monument Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive from the park area of Lodgepole to Grant Grove and from Grant Grove to Cedar Grove.

**PAY TELEPHONES** (cell-phone signals are usually poor):

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

### INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia).

### LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Meals 8-9am, noon-1pm, & 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, x-c skiing. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Open all year. Facilities on public land open to the public: 24-hour **laundry** (coin operated) & **gas station** (with credit card). **Market & snack shop.** North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily tours on the hour 11am-4pm through 9/30, then 11am, 1pm & 3pm (closed Tuesday-Wednesday) through 11/14. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & guided canyoneering trips. Ages 14 & up \$13; 3-13 \$8; under 3 free. AAA 10% discount. *Senior and Access Interagency Pass discounts do not apply.* Schools & other group reservations: 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Resort (FS):** On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Last night open 10/9. Hours (open 1 hour later Friday-Saturday): Restaurant 4:30-6:30pm; market 8am-7pm; showers 9am-6pm. Laundry. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. For more information, call 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

### GASOLINE SALES IN THIS AREA

- At Hume Lake & Stony Creek (USFS permittees) and Kings Canyon Lodge (private facility on private land). See page 3 for details.

## FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

*Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for details on these and other programs.*

### IN GRANT GROVE:

- Programs may be offered on weekends in October and November.

### IN CEDAR GROVE:

The program season ends 9/27; the area closes 11/15.





# Staying Overnight

## CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

**NOTE:** Rules may vary between the Park and the National Forest. Check page 3 for details.

### KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

### CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Always check bulletin boards; restrictions are in effect as of late September (see page 3). Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Better yet, bring wood with you. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

### ROADSIDE CAMPING?

It's not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

### TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

Camping stays are limited to 14 days between June 14 and September 14, with 30 days total per year.

### NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

### GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

**UP TO 6:** Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

**7 TO 19:** In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19; \$35/site.

**LARGER:** Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31; 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

### RVS & TRAILERS

**Length limits & advisory:** See *Rules of the Road* (page 5) and *Road Delays & Detours* (page 12) for vehicle-length limits and advisories. Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

No hookups are available.

### QUIET & GENERATOR HOURS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

### BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities here and nationwide at [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov).

## LODGING

### SEQUOIA PARK

• **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR)  
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

\* **Silver City Mountain Resort** \*  
Summer: 1-559-561-3223  
Winter: 1-805-528-2730  
[www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com). Open May 28 to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

### KINGS CANYON PARK

• **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, showers (closed in winter), store, gifts.

• **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Mid-May to October 16. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

### SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/ MONUMENT AREA

• **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)  
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388  
[www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.

• **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Open early May through October 9. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.

• **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS)  
1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

\* **Kings Canyon Lodge** \*  
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405  
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

\* **Note:** These two facilities are on private land and cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

### NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or check [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki), click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING.

**WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS** See page 4 for details.

## PROPER FOOD STORAGE is THE LAW!

**B**ears often get unattended food and even break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. *Too often these bears must be killed.*

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. The following reduces, but does not eliminate, the risk of a bear break-in:

- **DRIVERS** - Never leave any food or scented item in cars.
- **CAMPERS** - Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.
- **PICNICKERS** - Never leave food unattended.
- **LODGE GUESTS** - Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.
- **BACKPACKERS** - Hanging food is not effective in these parks! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets.
- **EVERYONE** - Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable, but if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.



*Sales of  
Save-a  
-Bear  
kits & pins in  
visitor centers  
directly support  
bear  
management.*



Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

**Food-storage is required!:** *A/ways* read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

**\*Summer reservations** for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked \* below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 888-448-1474.











# CAMP GROUNDS

## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- “Nearby”-Within 2 miles/ 3.2
- ✓ -Year-round
  - ☀ -Summer only

**FOOD STORAGE:** *Avoid bringing items that won't fit. Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground:*

- # One small box per site (47" long x 17"deep x 16"high);
- ◆ One large box per site (at least 47"long x 33"deep x 28"high);
- ⊠ A mix of box sizes;
- + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
#	\$										

## IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

### FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest, often hot.

<b>Potwisha:</b> ◆ Open all year.	40	\$18	Flush				✓	☀	✓		✓
<b>Buckeye Flat:</b> ◆ Last night 9/28, then closed. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☀			✓
<b>South Fork:</b> # Open all year. No water starting 10/15.	10	\$12 May -Oct.	Vault								✓

### MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. No RVs or trailers. ROAD CLOSES AT NOON, 11/1.

<b>Atwell Mill:</b> # Last night 10/31. No piped water starting 10/20.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀			☀			✓	✓
<b>Cold Springs:</b> # Last night 10/31. No piped water starting 10/13.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			☀	✓		✓	

### LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. \*= reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

<b>*Lodgepole:</b> ⊠ + Open all year. Reservation period late May through 9/29.	205	\$20/18 \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18.	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	☀		✓	✓
<b>*Dorst:</b> ⊠ + Closed.	210	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	✓

## IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

### GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'.

<b>Azalea:</b> ◆ Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀			✓	at village	☀		✓
<b>Crystal Springs:</b> ◆ Closed. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓
<b>Sunset:</b> ◆ Closed.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓

### CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. ROAD CLOSES AT NOON, 11/15.

<b>Sentinel:</b> 4600' ◆ + Last night open 9/28.	83	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓	
<b>Sheep Creek:</b> 4600' ◆+ Last night 11/11.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
<b>Canyon View:</b> 4600' ◆+ Last night 10/11. All sites are for groups of 7-19 people.	12	\$35	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
<b>Moraine:</b> 4600' ◆ Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

### HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. \*= reservable in summer.

<b>*Princess:</b> Campground & dump station closed for construction.	88	\$18 single	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.												
<b>*Hume Lake:</b> ◆ Last night 9/25.	74	\$20 "	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	
<b>Tenmile:</b> No water. Closes with snow.	13	\$16	Vault								✓	✓
<b>Landslide:</b> Last night 9/17.	9	\$16	Vault								✓	✓
<b>Convict Flat:</b> Last night 11/14. No water.	5		Vault								✓	

### BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Elevation 6400-7500'. \*= reservable in summer.

<b>*Stony Creek:</b> # Last night 9/25	49	\$20 single	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
<b>*Upper Stony:</b> # Last night 9/17.	18	\$16	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
<b>Horse Camp:</b> No water. Closes with snow.	5		Vault								✓	
<b>Buck Rock:</b> No water. Closes with snow.	11		Vault									
<b>Big Meadow:</b> ◆ No water. " " "	45		Vault						by trailhead	✓	✓	



## PARK ROADS

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

## STEEP ROADS:

Grades of 5-8%.  
Downshift to avoid  
overheated or failed  
brakes. See page 5.

## DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

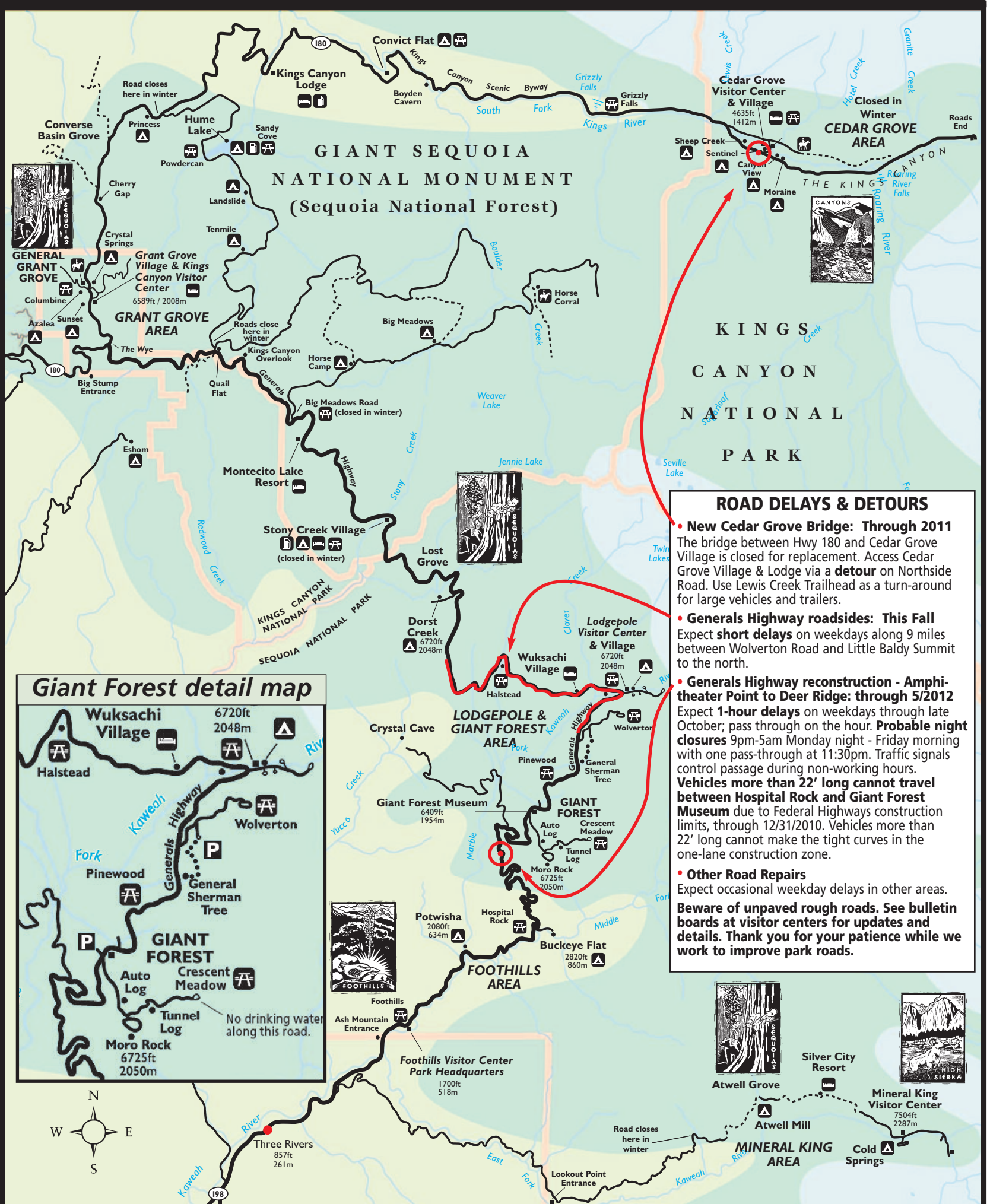
FROM FOOTHILLS TO:  
Giant Forest - 1 hour.  
Lodgepole - 1 hour.  
Visalia - 1 hour.  
Mineral King - 1-1/2  
hour. Road closed  
Nov 1 to late May.  
FROM GIANT FOREST TO  
Grant Grove - 1 hour.  
FROM GRANT GROVE TO:  
Cedar Grove - 1 hour.  
Road closed mid-  
Nov to late April.  
Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.  
Yosemite south entry  
via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

## LIFE ZONES:

**High Sierra** -  
9,000 to 14,500 feet.  
Summer: Warm to chilly  
days; nights down to  
low 30s. Winter: frigid.

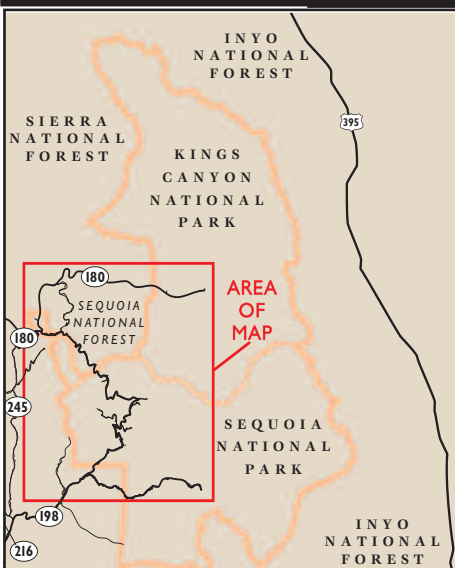
**Conifer zone** -  
5,000 to 9,000 feet.  
Summer: Warm days &  
cool nights. Winter: deep  
snow, cold days.

**Foothills zone** -  
1,500 to 5,000 feet.  
Mild, wet winters; hot,  
dry summers. Cedar  
Grove is cooler than the  
foothills, but hotter than  
Grant Grove.



## ROAD DELAYS & DETOURS

- **New Cedar Grove Bridge: Through 2011**  
The bridge between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village is closed for replacement. Access Cedar Grove Village & Lodge via a **detour** on Northside Road. Use Lewis Creek Trailhead as a turn-around for large vehicles and trailers.
  - **Generals Highway roadsides: This Fall**  
Expect **short delays** on weekdays along 9 miles between Wolverton Road and Little Baldy Summit to the north.
  - **Generals Highway reconstruction - Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge: through 5/2012**  
Expect **1-hour delays** on weekdays through late October; pass through on the hour. **Probable night closures** 9pm-5am Monday night - Friday morning with one pass-through at 11:30pm. Traffic signals control passage during non-working hours. **Vehicles more than 22' long cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum** due to Federal Highways construction limits, through 12/31/2010. Vehicles more than 22' long cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone.
  - **Other Road Repairs**  
Expect occasional weekday delays in other areas.
- Beware of unpaved rough roads. See bulletin boards at visitor centers for updates and details. Thank you for your patience while we work to improve park roads.**



**FALL 2010**  
**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON**  
**NATIONAL PARKS**  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

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